

# Applications Submitted for 139 Projects for 2005-2007 Grants

WSDOT received applications for 139 projects totaling over \$41 million in requests for competitive public transportation grants including requests to purchase 178 vehicles. Applications were received from organizations across Washington for projects in 38 of 39 counties in the state.

Applicants are competing for operating, capital, and project development funds provided through numerous state and federal programs.

WSDOT provides both competitive and formula-based public transportation grants. The deadline for submittal of applications for 2005-2007 competitive grants was November 17, 2004. Selected projects will begin no sooner than July 2005 and may extend for two years through June 30, 2007.

## Evaluation teams to rank applications.

WSDOT organized grant review teams to assist in the project selection. Evaluation team members represent a variety of organizations including the Washington State Transit Association, Community Transportation Association of the Northwest, and the Agency Council on Coordination.

Applications will be scored on three components:

- the need for the project and service provided
- the applicant's ability to manage the project
- the project's benefit to the community

## WSDOT will award grants based on available funding.

WSDOT anticipates awarding over \$50 million in state and federal grants for July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2007. Approximately \$20 million will be distributed through formula-based grants to transit systems and the remaining funds will be awarded through competitive public transportation grants.

WSDOT expects to announce grant awards by June 2005, once the funding amounts are determined. The biennial legislative appropriation determines the actual amount of state grant funds distributed and the federal transportation budget determines the actual amount of federal funds distributed.

\*The estimate includes approximately \$31 million in state funds and \$23 million in federal funds. The state estimate is based on the 10-year Legislative Transportation Funding Package and the federal estimate is based on actual Federal Fiscal Year 2005 funds, not on 2005-2007 contracted amounts.

# What is WSDOT's role in managing public transportation grants?

WSDOT's grants staff are responsible for:

- **Managing both state and federal public transportation grants** including project selection and funding distribution.
- **Working with each grantee** to finalize project scope, budget, and grant agreements.
- **Monitoring grantees for performance and compliance** with state and federal regulations through reporting, financial tracking, and site visits.
- **Assisting in vehicle purchases** and maintaining vehicle inventories.
- **Providing training and technical assistance** to grant recipients in the form of transportation planning, contract management, and marketing.
- **Reporting to the Washington State Legislature** on performance of state funded projects.
- **Reporting to the Federal Transit Administration** on performance of federally funded projects.

# When can public transportation providers apply for grants?

WSDOT is no longer accepting grant applications for the 2005-2007 grant cycle. The next opportunity to apply will be in the fall of 2006 for the 2007-2009 grant cycle. To get on the grant announcement list, please contact WSDOT's Public Transportation and Commute Options Office.

## Contact Us

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To learn more about WSDOT's public transportation grants:

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Washington State  
Department of Transportation



# Public Transportation Grants

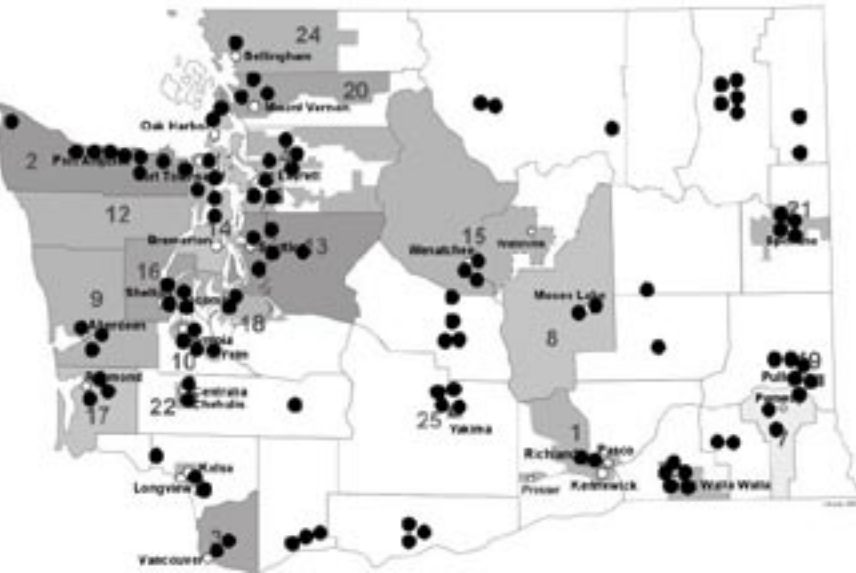
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WSDOT's public transportation grants help provide access, mobility, and independence to Washington residents.

Made possible by the 2003 Legislative Transportation Funding Package and federal funds, these grants:

- provide transit services within and between cities.
- purchase new buses and other equipment.
- provide public transportation service for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- improve public transportation in and between rural communities.

2003-2005 Public Transportation Grants



● = 2003-2005 grant projects  
Shaded Areas = Areas served by transit systems

### Highlights of 2003-2005 Projects

Here are some examples of projects funded through WSDOT's public transportation grants:

- **Ben Franklin Transit** is adding Sunday transportation services for people with special needs.
- **Northwestern Trailways** is operating intercity bus service along Highway 97 between Omak, Wenatchee, and Ellensburg.
- **People For People's** "Community Connector" is providing intercity service in rural communities where Greyhound eliminated stops in 2004.
- **Pierce Transit** is purchasing ten ADA accessible ParaTransit vehicles and is expanding transportation services to persons with special needs.
- **Skamania County Senior Services** started operating public transportation service along Highway 14 serving rural residents in Skamania and east Clark Counties.
- **Thurston Regional Planning Council** is providing employment transportation for the Nisqually and Chehalis Tribes and other portions of Thurston, Lewis, and Grays Harbor Counties.



Skamania started a new bus service with grant funds to help rural residents get to jobs, training, and school.

### Who is eligible for public transportation grants?

Many types of organizations may qualify for WSDOT's public transportation grants including:

- transit systems
- non-profit agencies
- tribal governments
- senior centers
- state agencies
- cities and counties
- special districts such as schools and ports
- private, for-profit operators



Grant funds helped Colville Confederated Tribes replace an old van with a lift-equipped minibus to transport seniors and people with special needs.

### How are the funds put to work?

As the map on the cover illustrates, the 2003-2005 public transportation grants are at work across the state. WSDOT awarded state and federal grants in July 2003, to the highest number of projects ever funded through the state's program. The grant funds are purchasing approximately 84 vehicles and providing over 1.2 million trips to people living in rural areas and people with special needs. See the "Highlights of 2003-2005 Projects" for examples.



Grant funds helped start the "Beyond the Borders" project connecting citizens living in rural areas to Pierce Transit in Tacoma.

### What types of grants are awarded?

WSDOT created a consolidated grant application process in 2003 to combine the application process for state and federal public transportation grants. Timelines for all state and federal funding awards were brought in line with the state biennium. This allowed applicants to submit their proposals for all types of grant funding just once every two years instead applying for each type of grant program.

Through the consolidated grant program, WSDOT awarded over \$50 million in public transportation grants for July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2005 projects statewide. The funding was provided from a combination of state and federal sources.

### State Grants for 2003-2005

The Washington State Legislature established a rural mobility grant program in 1993 with a \$1.5 million appropriation to WSDOT. Since then, WSDOT has provided state grants to transportation providers serving rural areas. In 2003, the legislature provided a 10-year Legislative Transportation Funding Package that significantly expanded the state's rural mobility grant program and added new ParaTransit/special needs grants. For 2003-2005, WSDOT awarded approximately \$31 million in state grants for the following programs:



Grant funds allow Okanogan seniors to get around within six small communities.

#### Rural Mobility Grants — \$12.9 million

Rural mobility grants improve transportation in rural areas where public transportation is limited or does not exist. The grants provide a lifeline for many rural citizens who rely on public transportation to hold jobs and maintain their independence. Through a competitive grant application process, \$6.9 million was awarded to transportation providers in areas not served by transit agencies. Through formula based grants, another \$6 million was provided to rural and small city transit agencies to equalize disparity in local tax collection.

#### ParaTransit/Special Needs Grants — \$18 million

New ParaTransit/special needs grants support public transportation for persons who, because of their age (youth or seniors), disabilities, or income status, are unable to provide or purchase their own transportation. Through a competitive grant application process, \$4 million was awarded to non-profit providers of transportation services for the elderly and persons with disabilities. Through formula based grants, another \$14 million was awarded to assist transit agencies with providing additional public transportation services for people with special needs.



ParaTransit/special needs grants helped transit systems provide additional services.

### Federal Grants for 2003-2005

WSDOT administers several Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant programs. For 2003-2005, WSDOT matched state and local funds with FTA funds and administered approximately \$19 million in federal public transportation grants for these programs:

#### FTA Section 5310—Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation — \$2.8 million

Elderly and persons with disabilities transportation grants were awarded to non-profit agencies serving urban and rural areas. In 2003-2005, approximately \$1.1 million was awarded through the competitive grant process to provide capital purchases, such as vehicles, and \$1.7 million was provided for the conclusion of a three-year purchase of service program.

#### FTA Section 5311—Rural Public Transportation — \$3.8 million

Transportation providers competed for federal rural public transportation grants. Approximately \$3.8 million was awarded for capital, operating, and planning activities for public transportation in rural areas.

#### FTA Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Transportation — \$1.8 million

Approximately \$1.8 million in intercity bus transportation grants were awarded to establish, preserve, and enhance rural and small urban intercity transportation.



Grant funding provides intercity bus service and connects communities.

#### FTA Section 5309 Rural Capital Projects — \$4.7 million

WSDOT administered approximately \$4.7 million in rural capital projects for transit systems. These funds are used to purchase buses and for bus facilities in rural areas. Congress earmarked the funding in the annual Transportation Appropriation.

#### FTA Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) — \$6.1 million

WSDOT started administering job access grants in 2003 and managed approximately \$6.1 million JARC grants during 2003-2005. JARC grants are awarded through a competitive process for employment related transportation. The program recognizes that a lack of transportation prevents low-income people from getting to jobs, education, training, child-care, and other job related activities.